

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**Godwin Agbim,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**HWAT, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty,**

Defendant.

Case No.

Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial

**COMPLAINT**

**Godwin Agbim** (Plaintiff), by and through his attorneys, **Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.**, alleges the following against **HWAT, Inc. d/b/a Choice Home Warranty** (Defendant):

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. §227 and § 302.101 of the Texas Business & Commercial Code.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over the TCPA claims in this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, which grants this court original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States. See Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC, 565 U.S. 368, 386-87 (2012) (confirming that 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants the United States district courts federal-question subject-matter jurisdiction to hear private civil suits under the TCPA).

3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant conducts business in the State of Texas.

4. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (2).

### **PARTIES**

5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Houston, Texas 77036.
6. Plaintiff is a “person” as that term is defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
7. Defendant is a corporation with principal place of business, head office, or otherwise valid mailing address at 1701 Directors Blvd., Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78744.
8. Defendant is a “person” as that term is defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
9. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and/or insurers.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

10. Plaintiff has a cellular telephone number ending in 4932.
11. The area code for the number ending in 4932 is 832.
12. Area code 832 is an area code used in the Houston, Texas area.
13. Plaintiff has only used this cellular telephone number for residential purposes.
14. Defendant placed unsolicited telephone calls to Plaintiff on his cellular telephone on the following dates: three calls on January 3, 2019, three calls on January 4, 2019, and two calls July 21, 2020.
15. Defendant did not have Plaintiff’s consent to call Plaintiff on his cellular telephone number.
16. Plaintiff did not request information from Defendant regarding its services.
17. Plaintiff’s telephone number ending in 4932 has been on the Do Not Call Registry since January 2020.

18. Upon information and belief, when contacting Plaintiff, Defendant used a dialing system which had the capacity to store or call phone numbers using a random or sequential number generator.

19. Upon information and belief, Defendant maintains a stored list of 10 digit telephone numbers of consumers in its database for communication purposes.

20. Upon information and belief, Defendant utilize a “predictive dialing system” which interfaces with software and databases which have the capacity to generate numbers randomly or sequentially.

21. The dialing system used by Defendant call phone numbers stored in those databases.

22. Accordingly, Defendant’s dialing systems have the capacity to dial numbers using a random or sequential number generator.

23. Upon information and belief, Defendant’s dialing systems include equipment which dials from the stored list of 10 digit consumer telephone numbers.

24. Defendant’s dialing systems employ computer code and/or algorithms which result in it randomly or sequentially generating numbers in order to select and dial the stored 10-digit consumer telephone number from the list.

25. Furthermore, Defendant’s dialing systems use computer code and/or algorithms to determine the orders/sequence of calls to be automatically dialed.

26. The operation of the random/sequential number generator, referred to above results in Defendant’s dialing system automatically placing calls to the 10 digit telephone numbers in Defendant’s stored list(s).

27. Plaintiff believes and avers that Defendant called his with an automatic telephone dialing system. Plaintiff believes this because a live representative was never on the line when Plaintiff answered Defendant's calls and the call would always disconnect.

28. While Plaintiff has not had the benefit of discovery, he intends to prove Defendant utilized an automatic telephone dialing system in the course of discovery.

29. Defendant's telephone calls were not made for "emergency purposes".

30. Plaintiff found Defendant's repeated calls annoying, frustrating, upsetting, harassing, and an invasion of his privacy.

31. Upon information and belief, Defendants conduct business in a manner which violates the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

**COUNT I**  
**DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE TCPA 47 U.S.C. §227(b)**

32. Plaintiff incorporates the forgoing paragraphs as though the same were set forth at length herein.

33. The TCPA prohibits placing calls using an automatic telephone dialing system or automatically generated or prerecorded voice to a cellular telephone except where the caller has the prior express consent of the called party to make such calls or where the call is made for emergency purposes. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

23. Defendant initiated multiple telephone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number using an automatic telephone dialing system.

24. The dialing system used by Defendant to call Plaintiff's cellular telephone calls telephone numbers without being prompted by human intervention before each call.

25. The dialing system used by Defendant to call Plaintiff has the present and/or future capacity to dial numbers in a random and/or sequential fashion.

26. Defendant's calls were not made for "emergency purposes."

27. Defendant's calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone were without any prior express consent.

28. Defendant contacted Plaintiff despite the fact that Plaintiff has been on the Do Not Call Registry since January 2020.

29. Defendant's acts as described above were done with malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, wanton and negligent disregard for Plaintiff's rights under the law and with the purpose of harassing Plaintiff.

30. The acts and/or omissions of Defendant were done unfairly, unlawfully, intentionally, deceptively and fraudulently and absent bona fide error, lawful right, legal defense, legal justification or legal excuse.

31. As a result of the above violations of the TCPA, Plaintiff has suffered the losses and damages as set forth above entitling Plaintiff to an award of statutory, actual and trebles damages.

**COUNT II**  
**DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE TCPA 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)**

32. Plaintiff incorporates the forgoing paragraphs as though the same were set forth at length herein.

33. The TCPA prohibits any person or entity of initiating any telephone solicitation to a residential telephone subscriber who has registered their telephone number on the National Do-Not-Call Registry of persons who do not wish to receive telephone solicitations that is maintained by the Federal Government. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c).

34. Defendant contacted Plaintiff despite the fact that Plaintiff has been on the Do Not Call Registry since January 2020.

35. Defendant called Plaintiff on multiple occasions during a single calendar year despite Plaintiff's registration on the Do Not Call list.

36. Defendant's acts as described above were done with malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, wanton and negligent disregard for Plaintiff's rights under the law and with the purpose of harassing Plaintiff.

37. The acts and/or omissions of Defendant were done unfairly, unlawfully, intentionally, deceptively and fraudulently and absent bona fide error, lawful right, legal defense, legal justification or legal excuse.

38. As a result of the above violations of the TCPA, Plaintiff has suffered the losses and damages as set forth above entitling Plaintiff to an award of statutory, actual and trebles damages.

**COUNT III**  
**DEFENDANT VIOLATED § 302.101 OF**  
**THE TEXAS BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL CODE**

39. Plaintiff incorporates the forgoing paragraphs as though the same were set forth at length herein.

40. §302.101 of the Texas Business & Commerce Code prohibits sellers from engaging in telephone solicitation from a location in this state or to a purchaser located in this state unless the seller obtains a registration certificate from the Office of the Secretary of State for the business location from which the solicitation is made.

34. Defendant violated § 302.101 of the Texas Business & Commercial Code when its representatives engaged in continuous and repetitive telephone solicitation of Plaintiff without obtaining a registration certificate from the Office of the Secretary of State.

35. §302.302(a) of the Texas Business & Commerce Code provides that a person who violates this chapter is subject to a civil penalty of no more than \$5,000 for each violation. Furthermore, §302.302(d) provides that the party bringing the action is also entitled to recover all reasonable cost of prosecuting the action, including court costs and investigation costs, deposition expenses, witness fees, and attorney fees.

**Wherefore**, Plaintiff, **Godwin Agbim**, respectfully prays for judgment as follows:

- a. All actual damages Plaintiff suffered (as provided under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A)) and §302.302 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code;
- b. Statutory damages of \$500.00 per violative telephone call (as provided under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B));
- c. Additional statutory damages of \$500.00 per violative telephone call (as provided under 47 U.S.C. § 227(C);
- d. Treble damages of \$1,500.00 per violative telephone call (as provided under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3));
- e. Additional treble damages of \$1,500.00 per violative telephone call (as provided under 47 U.S.C. § 227(c);
- f. Statutory damages of \$5,000 per violation (as provided under §302.302(a) of the Texas Business and Commerce Code);
- g. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to §302.302(a) of the Texas Business and Commerce Code;
- h. Injunctive relief (as provided under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3) and (c); and

- i. Any other relief this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

**Please take notice** that Plaintiff, **Godwin Agbim**, demands a jury trial in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 06/09/2021

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